

**Abstract of the speech of Dr. Frank Raes
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**Presentation of the 'Belgian *Global Change* research 1990 – 2002 : Assessment
and integration report'**

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The report 'Belgian global change research 1990-2002' is a beautiful integration and synthesis of an impressive amount of research performed by Belgian scientists. It shows the high quality of their work and how it integrates with the international scientific efforts to understand global changes. A future challenge of this scientific community, in Belgium and elsewhere, is to make their work better connected and hence more 'useful' for those policymakers that look for better sustainable strategies to deal with our Earth. In the presentation, I will shortly illustrate where we are with the link between climate change research and climate change policymaking. As another example, I will illustrate the basic requirements of policymaking in the connected areas of climate change and air pollution, which go much beyond the information given in the report 'Belgian global change research 1990-2002' and which primarily deal with economic and social issues. A future research strategy should build-in these connections between global change research and socio-economic aspects. It is important that a future research strategy is developed with 'upfront engagement' of actors in the socio-economic and policy arena.